

INSIGHTS ON ROMANS: THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

CULTIVATING A SPIRIT-CONTROLLED LIFE

ROMANS 8:12–17



The Heart of the Matter

Difficult as it may be to admit, most of us have been “programmed” incorrectly. Instead of being taught and encouraged to claim God’s power within us—to live above the drag of our lower nature (“the flesh”)—we have merely been instructed how to conduct our lives *after* we have sinned. Our mind-set has been shaped by “corrective theology” instead of “preventative theology.” And so we begin each day expecting to fall short . . . to disobey . . . to resist . . . and that focus has resulted in our cultivating a flesh-controlled mentality. This misapplication of the truth has led most Christians to settle for a low-level focus on the constant confession of sin. We endure a negative lifestyle, instead of cultivating a Spirit-controlled mentality that leads to an abundant lifestyle. Hopefully, the six verses we examine in this message will awaken us to a whole new focus and perspective.



Discovering the Way

1. Initial Question

Each of us must ask and answer the following question: whose responsibility is my sanctification?

2. Personal Obligation (Romans 8:12–13)

We must live not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

3. Internal Changes (Romans 8:14–17)

Four internal changes must take place as we embrace a life of walking by the Spirit: practical, everyday leading from God; free, fearless intimacy with God; confident assurance of belonging to God; and clear realization of our value before God.

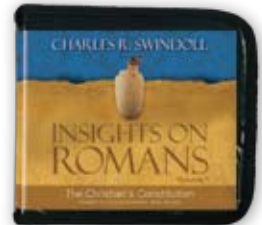


Starting Your Journey

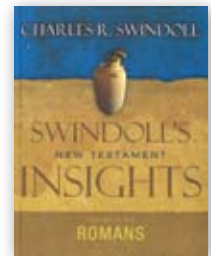
Our response? We must let God lead, releasing our grip on our own lives and trusting Him to guide us.



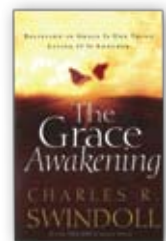
Tools for Digging Deeper



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